16: Lee E-5 (1963-1965) 1966 FX10 Bushmen FX10
!Kung

The !Kung Bushmen

101
131
162 The !Kung are the most numerous of the surviving Bushman tribes. Of the estimated total of 13,000, about 3,000 live in Angola, 2,000 in Bechuanaland, and 8,000 in South West Africa. The !Kung occupy a remarkably large area. Their country extends from north to south for a distance of 500 miles, and from east to west for a distance of 300 miles (see Map 5).

101
197
553 Two criteria clearly distinguish the !Kung from all other
19 Bushman peoples: their language and their unique system of personal naming. The !Kung language has phonological features in common with adjacent Tshu-khwe and Hottentot languages, such as the four click system and the strong glottal releases. However, the vocabulary and grammar of !Kung sets it apart from the other click languages. A lexicostatistic comparison of !Kung and Nharo showed a low incidence of cognates (11.5%).

[114] The grammar of !Kung has yet to be adequately described, but
[193] none of the preliminary work by Doke (1925), Bleek (1929), Maingard (1957), and Westphal (1962, 1963:244) has been able to demonstrate a genetic relationship of !Kung grammar to the grammars of the other click languages.

There are no semi-!Kung languages (although the vocabulary of the southern dialect has been influenced by contact with Nharo) and therefore a native speaker of !Kung is immediately identified as a member of the !Kung tribe. This holds

• 19

true even at the periphery of their distribution where !Kung speakers have been intermarrying with other Bushmen for generations.

551
553

The second diagnostic criterion is the !Kung system of naming. There is a finite repertoire of about ninety personal names among the !Kung of Bechuanaland and South West Africa. All names are sex specific, about forty-five are for men and forty-five for women. Personal names are transmitted from grandparent to grandchild according to explicit rules of precedence. First-born males are named after their paternal grandfather and first-born females after their paternal grandmother. Subsequent offspring are named for the maternal grandparents and if necessary further children are named for the siblings of their parents, again with the paternal side taking precedence. The !Kung feel that all people bearing a certain personal name are ultimately descended from the original bearer of that name. Thus all men named, for example, /oma, feel a fictive kinship for one another. They formalize this by addressing all namesakes older than ego as grandfather (!un!a - literally "older name") and all namesakes younger than ego as grandson (!uma - literally "younger name"). By the extension of primary kinship terms to unrelated namesakes, some 9,000 !Kung Bushmen are actually or potentially incorporated into a fictive kinship network. This network extends from the Ghanzi farms on